



DANIEL P. CLIFFORD, PRESIDENT
RICHARD M. BROWN, SEC-TREAS.

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION

33 EASTLAND STREET ■ SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109
PHONE: (413) 732-6209 (800) 332-9699 FAX: (413) 732-5376 E-MAIL: workers@UFCW1459.com

July 27, 2011

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to
assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).*

Dear Commissioners:

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to express my views in favor of the proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger, referenced above. As President of UFCW Local 1459, I support this merger because it would encourage economic development throughout Massachusetts.

Studies have shown that access to advanced communications technologies helps spur innovations in a variety of industries. Once businesses of any size have access to wireless communications technologies, the possibilities are almost endless. They can expand to include online sales and services, and more effectively compete with other businesses, regardless of size or location. These developments lead to economic growth, new jobs and improved quality of life.

Additionally, when people have access to high-speed wireless broadband, they also have access to information and resources, distance learning programs, and job training and employment opportunities. Wireless broadband brings possibilities to people to improve their economic situation and quality of life. For our union, increased availability of wireless broadband would allow us to maintain better communication between our members and increase the efficiency of our outreach and educational efforts.

Businesses use this technology to grow, and individuals can use this technology to secure better opportunities in their professional and personal lives. Right now, there are many small, rural communities in Massachusetts where high-speed wireless broadband is unavailable. Without it, these communities cannot compete and will lose out on future opportunities. The approval of this merger can change that by making the next generation of wireless broadband available to 97.3% of Americans, and without taxpayer expense.

I'm excited about the possibilities and opportunities this merger would bring to workers and businesses, and I'm optimistic about the resulting economic development. I hope you will support this transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Clifford", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel P. Clifford
President
UFCW Local 1459
Springfield, MA

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell